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# Front and Center

## Serving the American People: From 1943 to 2005

**T**his issue of *Family Economics and Nutrition Review* contains three research articles and briefs that, respectively, examine variations in State hunger rates; focus on fruits and vegetables offered in school lunch salad bars; and describe the perceptions of rural, suburban, and urban residents who use food pantries.

The issue also includes reports by the Center for Nutrition Policy and Promotion: one describing the nutrient content of the U.S. food supply and the other detailing how variety—one of the 10 components of the Healthy Eating Index—was calculated. The nutrient content of the food supply provides information on nutrient availability and is often used in setting fortification policy. The Healthy Eating Index, representing a report card on the American diet, gives policymakers a picture of the overall status of the American diet and where changes need to be made. In addition to these reports, the Center for Nutrition Policy and Promotion uses a brief article to explain why cost updates of the Thrifty Food Plan, the basis for food stamp allotments, differ from price changes as measured by the Consumer Price Index for food.

Although the name of this USDA publication has changed over the years (*Wartime Family Living* in 1943, *Rural Family Living* in 1945, *Family Economics Review* in 1957, and *Family Economics and Nutrition Review* in 1995), its goal of reaching American consumers with current, science-based information has remained constant. The USDA agencies or divisions that had the privilege of producing this publication met a perennial need of linking research to the needs of consumers. These USDA agencies or divisions were the Bureau of Human Nutrition and Home Economics, Home Economics Research Branch, Institute of Home Economics, Consumer and Food Economics Research Division, Consumer and Food Economics Institute, and Family Economics Research Group. The agencies' or divisions' contributions formed the foundations upon which actionable consumer strategies were based. Similarly, we believe that the Center for Nutrition Policy and Promotion, with its *Family Economics and Nutrition Review*, has added to that substantial tradition and has thus improved the well-being of all Americans.

As Americans began using more electronic means of communications, the Center for Nutrition Policy and Promotion decided to use a variety of other information-multiplying strategies that could meet the demands of consumers who are obtaining information at the "click of the mouse." With this final issue of *Family Economics and Nutrition Review*, the Center for Nutrition Policy and Promotion concludes the chapter on this paper form of providing information to the economic and nutrition professional communities. We invite the readers of *Family Economics and Nutrition Review* to use our Web site ([www.cnpp.usda.gov](http://www.cnpp.usda.gov)) to learn more about our other publications and links that provide nutrition and economic information that can be used to help Americans develop and maintain a healthful lifestyle.

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